

## § 1778.11

potable water quantity or quality problem.

(4) Pay loan or grant finder's fees.

(5) Pay any annual recurring costs that are considered to be operational expenses.

(6) Pay rental for the use of equipment or machinery owned by the rural community.

(7) Purchase existing systems.

(8) Refinance existing indebtedness, except for short-term debt incurred in accordance with § 1778.9(h).

(9) Make reimbursement for projects developed with other grant funds.

(10) Finance facilities that are not for public use.

(b) Nothing in paragraph (a)(1) of this section shall preclude rural areas from submitting joint proposals for assistance under this part. Each entity applying for financial assistance under this part to fund their share of a joint project will be considered individually.

## § 1778.11 Maximum grants.

(a) Grants not to exceed \$500,000 may be made to alleviate a significant decline in quantity or quality of water available to a rural area that occurred within two years of filing an application with the Agency, or to attempt to avoid a significant decline that is expected to occur during the twelve month period following the filing of an application.

(b) Grants made for repairs, partial replacement, or significant maintenance on an established system to remedy an acute shortage or significant decline in the quality or quantity of potable water, or an anticipated acute shortage or significant decline, cannot exceed \$150,000.

(c) Grants under this part, subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, shall be made for 100 percent of eligible project costs.

## § 1778.12 [Reserved]

## § 1778.13 Set-aside.

(a) At least 70 percent of all grants made under this grant program shall be for projects funded in accordance with § 1778.11(a).

(b) At least 50 percent of the funds appropriated for this grant program shall be allocated to rural areas with

## 7 CFR Ch. XVII (1–1–10 Edition)

populations not in excess of 3,000 inhabitants according to the most recent decennial census of the United States.

## § 1778.14 Other considerations.

(a) *Civil rights compliance requirements.* All grants made under this part are subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) as outlined in subpart E of part 1901 of this title.

(b) *Environmental requirements.* All projects must have appropriate environmental reviews in accordance with RUS requirements.

(c) *Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (42 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.).* All projects must comply with the requirements set forth in 7 CFR Part 21.

(d) *Flood and mudslide hazard area precautions.* If the project is located in a flood or mudslide area, then flood or mudslide insurance must be provided as required in subpart A of part 1806 of this title (RD Instruction 426.2).

(e) *Governmentwide debarment and suspension (nonprocurement)* and requirements for drug-free work place. All projects must comply with the requirements set forth in the U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations 7 CFR part 3017 and RD Instruction 1940-M.

(f) *Intergovernmental review.* All projects funded under this part are subject to Executive Order 12372 (3 CFR, 1983 Comp., p. 197), which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. These requirements are set forth in U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations 7 CFR part 3015, Subpart V, and RD Instruction 1940-J.

## §§ 1778.15–1778.20 [Reserved]

## § 1778.21 Application processing.

(a) The material submitted with the application should include the Preliminary Engineering Report, population and median household income of the area to be served, description of project, and nature of emergency that caused the problem(s) being addressed by the project. The documentation must clearly show that the applicant has had a significant decline in the quantity or quality of potable water or an acute shortage of potable water, or